

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 2115

COPENHAGEN FOR SHEINBAUM

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PINS, MA, CN
SUBJECT: CIVIL DISORDER IN MAJUNGA: ONE WEEK LATER

REFS: (A) TANANARIVE 2072; (B) 2077; (C) 2094

1. SUMMARY. LIFE IN MAJUNGA SLOWLY RETURNING TO NORMAL.
15,000 COMORIANS UNDER GOVERNMENT PROTECTION. MUCH OF
MAJUNGA DESTROYED. COMORIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS
WITH NO PUBLIC RESULTS. PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA SAYS THAT
IMPERIALISTS WISH TO DESTROY GOOD COMORIAN/GDRM RELATIONS.
END SUMMARY.

2. GDRM REPORTS THAT LIFE IN MAJUNGA SLOWLY RETURNING TO
NORMAL. TRAVELLERS REPORT THAT VIOLENCE FINALLY CEASED ON
DEC 24. WHILE GDRM HAS NOT ADMITTED MORE THAN 121 KILLED,
MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE ABOUT 500, ALMOST ALL COMORIANS,
KILLED IN 5 DAYS BLOODY FIGHTING WHICH BEGAN DEC 20.
APPARENTLY, GDRM ARMY AND GENDARMERIE WERE UNABLE OR UN-
WILLING TO RESOTRE ORDER UNTIL LATE IN WEEK OF DEC 20.
SOMEWITNESSES REPORT THAT ENTIRE POORER SECTION OF
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MAJUNGA, WHERE COMORIAN AND ANTAISAKAS LIVE, DESTROYED. AS
IN CASE OF CASUALTIES, GDRM HAS GIVEN NO ACCOUNTING OF
EXTENT OF DESTRUCTION.

3. GDRM REPORTS THAT 15,000 COMORIANS NOW UNDER GOVERNMENT
PROTECTION AND BEING HOUSED AND FED BY GOVERNMENT. TRAVELL-

ERS REPORT THESE 15,000 LIVING IN GENDARMERIE CAMPS.

4. GDRM ALSO REPORTS THAT A JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION IS UNDERWAY AND THAT A MILITARY TRIBUNAL IS ABOUT TO BEGIN ITS WORK.

5. WHILE HE HAS NOT DIRECTLY ACCUSED IMPERIALISTS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RIOTS, PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA TOOK OCCASION OF PLO DELEGATION'S VISIT TO STATE THAT IMPERIALISM WOULD GAIN FROM THE DISORDERS AND THE IMPERIALISM IS TRYING TO DESTROY GOOD COMORIAN/GDRM RELATIONS.

6. ON DEC 21, GDRM HAD INVITED GOVERNMENT OF COMOROS TO SEND OFFICIALS TO HELP SOLVE PROBLEM IN MAJUNGA. NOT UNTIL WEEKEND OF DEC 25-26 DID COMORIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOUZAWOIR ABDALLAH LEAD 7-MAN DELEGATION TO TANANARIVE. ABRALLAH WAS RECEIVED BY RATSIRAKA BUT NO RESULTS OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS WERE ANNOUNCED. ONE FOREIGN DIPLOMAT BELIEVES THAT COMORIANS WERE INCENSED THAT GDRM HAD DONE SO LITTLE TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF COMORIANS IN MAJUNGA.

7. COMMENT: AS CONTEMPLATED REF C, PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA AND HIS GOVERNMENT FACE A TERRIBLE DILEMMA. ON THE ONE HAND, HE WISHES TO PORTRAY A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMOROS AS ON SOUND FRATERNAL, ANTI-IMPERIALIST REVOLUTIONARY FOOTING. ON THE OTHER HAND, HIS PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY ANTAISAKA (FELLOW COTIER TO RATSIRAKA), HAVE JUST MASSACRED UP TO 3 PERCENT OF MAJUNGA'S COMORIAN POPULATION AND THE SURVIVORS ARE PRESENTLY HUDDLING UNDER GDRM PROTECTION. PRESUMABLY RATSIRAKA WOULD LIKE TO SOLVE HIS PROBLEM BY RIDDING THE

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ISLE, OR AT LEAST MAJUNGA, OF THESE COMORIANS--BUT TO WHERE? THE GOVERNMENT OF COMOROS CERTAINLY DOESN'T WANT ITS POPULATION SUDDENLY INCREASED BY 6 PERCENT, AND THE FRENCH CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO INCREASE THE POPULATION OF MAYOTTE BY NEARLY HALF. IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE RELATIONS BETWEEN COMORIANS AND MALAGASY IN MAJUNGA EVER RETURNING TO NORMAL, AND THEREFORE IT'S LIKELY THAT MAJUNGA WILL REMAIN A FESTERING THORN IN THE GDRM'S DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES.

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